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SUBJECT: ESTONIA: TURKEY-EU ACCESSION PROCESS

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(C) On November 24 Poloff delivered reftel points to Anneli Leega-Piiskop, MFA Turkey Desk Officer, concerning Turkey's EU accession process. Other than Austria, which has called for a cessation of talks, Leega-Piiskop said that most member states understand how delicate a matter this is. They do not want Turkey to feel it has been forced into a corner and must reject the Finnish proposal. While Estonia continues to support Turkey's EU membership, according to Leega-Piiskop, the GOE feels that the Finnish EU Presidency has not been transparent enough on its negotiations with either Turkey or the European Commission. "Nobody knows what the main issues are in the Presidency package," said Leega-Piiskop, "and the member states still don't know enough of the details." On November 27, Leega-Piiskop said that the break down of talks between the EU and Turkey is of keen concern for the GOE. Estonia fears that if the EU and Turkey cannot overcome this impasse, then the upcoming EU Summit will become a de facto "Turkey Summit" -- raising the stakes on the Turkey debate and putting even more pressure on Ankara.
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